

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /161 W

----- 100680

R 271103Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5795

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 12/27/74

TAGS: PINS, XF, SY

SUBJECT: SA'IQA DENOUNCES GENEVA CONFERENCE

REF: BEIRUT 14362

SUMMARY: SYRIAN-BACKED SA'IQA, IN STATEMENT ISSUED IN
DAMASCUS DEC. 24, ANNOUNCED TOTAL REJECTION OF ANY FORM OF
PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WARNED PLO
LEADERSHIP AGAINST ALLOWING THIS ISSUE TO "UNDERMINE PALESTINIAN
NATIONAL UNITY". AT SAME TIME, PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPOR-
TEDLY HAS DECIDED POSTPONE INDEFINITELY MEETING OF PALESTINE NATIONAL
COUNCIL THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MID-JANUARY TO DEBATE QUESTION
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OF FEDAYEEN ASSOCIATION WITH SETTLEMENT EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LENGTHY STATEMENT CARRIED DEC. 24 IN SYRIAN RULING PARTY'S ORGAN, AL BAATH, SA'IQA DECLARED ITS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA TALKS, DENOUNCING THEM AS "INCOMPATIBLE WITH JUST SOLUTION--EVEN A PARTIAL ONE--OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM" AND "INCAPABLE OF RESTORING MINIMUM PALESTINIAN RIGHTS". STATEMENT SAID SA'IQA AT FIRST HAD BELIEVED OCTOBER WAR HAD MADE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT MORE POSSIBLE THAN AT ANY TIME IN PAST, BUT COMPLAINED THAT SUPER-POWER ORGANIZERS OF GENEVA CONFERENCE HAD FAILED PROVIDE "CLEAR UNDERSTANDING" RE "PRECISE BASES" FOR RESTORATION OF "MINIMUM LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS". IT ASSERTED THAT SINCE THIS AND OTHER PARTICULARS--INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA TALKS, FUTURE OF "PALESTINIAN ARAB TERRITORY", AND FUTURE OF PLO AS "EMBODIMENT OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND NATIONAL PERSONALITY"--HAVE BEEN LEFT UNDEFINED, PLO LEADERSHIP MUST THEREFORE REGARD CONFERENCE AS AIMED AT "LIQUIDATION" OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE, PARTICULARLY SINCE ANY RESULTING SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ACHIEVED WITH "ACTIVE COMPLICITY" OF US AND ISRAEL. STATEMENT WENT ON TO CALL FOR "GENERAL MOBILIZATION OF ARAB WORLD AGAINST GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ALL OTHER SURRENDER PROJECTS", AND URGED PLO LEADERSHIP BOYCOTT CONFERENCE IN ORDER "LEAD UNITED ARAB STRUGGLE...TO FREE PALESTINIAN SOIL FROM ZIONIST INVADERS".

2. ON DEC. 22, ALSO IN DAMASCUS, PLAESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) PRES. KHALID AL FAHOUM ANNOUNCED THAT PLO EX COMM HAD DECIDED POSTPONE INDEFINITELY "EXPANDED" PNC SESSIONS ORIVINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MED-JANUARY (FBIS M132258 AND M132301) TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF FEDAYEEN ASSOCIATION WITH SETTLEMENT EFFORT. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY RATHER LAME PROMISE THAT PLO LEASERSHIP "WILL CONTINUE STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN POPULATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ELSEWHERE IN ORDER TO LEARN THEIR VIEWS".

3. COMMENT: SA'IQA'S DENUNCIACTION OF ME PEACE TALKS MADE SIX DAYS AFTER SYRIAN GOVT HAD ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION NOT TO TAKE PART AT GENEVA, HARDLY COMES AS ANY SURPRISE. WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, IS ALACRITY WITH WHICH PLO LEADERSHIP HAS BACKED AWAY FROM NOTION OF AIRNG QUESTION OF FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS AT PNC SESSIONS IN JANUARY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FATAH
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ELEMENTS AMENABLE TO SARG INFLUENCE (E.G., KHALIK AL WAZIR IN DAMASCUS) HAVE SINCE DEC. 18 BEEN EXERCISING STRONG INTERNAL PRESSURE ON PLO/FATAH LEADERSHIP TO FOLLOW SHRIAN LEAD IN ADOPTING HARDER LINE TOWARD GENEVA TALKS. THEIR EFFORTS APPARENTLY HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE HEADWAYWITH JARATAT AND CO., AND SATQA IS OBVIOUSLY BEING USED TO KEEP THE HEAT TURNED ON. SOP OF "CONTINUED CONSULTATIONS" BEING OFFERED TO WEST BANK/GAZA SUPPORTERS OF FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION INPEACE TALKS IS NOT LIKELY TO IMPRESS

INHABITANTS OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (PARA 3 REFTEL), BUT THEIR
DESIRERS
HAVE SELDOM COUNTED FOR MUCH IN BYZANTINE WORLD OF INTERNAL
FEDAYEEN POLITICS. BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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